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PTO/SB/97 (08-04)

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 5144

In re : Application of Chen et al.  
For : **MAINTAINING UNIFORM CMP HARD MASK THICKNESS**  
Serial No. : 10/711,145  
Filed : August 27, 2004  
Group Art Unit : 2823  
Examiner : Phillip Green  
Our Docket No. : FIS920040211US1  
Customer No. : 24036

June 9, 2006

By Fax 571-273-8300

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RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment having a statutory period of one month (July 1, 2006) in which to reply.

Please amend the referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.